

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: God of the universe, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

The House returns from a long week-end of meeting with constituents as our Nation continues to process the impact of dramatic explosions in Boston and Texas.

Concerns about budget, taxes, immigration, gun violence, among others, reveal the considerable divisions both in Congress and among the American populace as well.

As opinions and emotions surge loudly and with little indication of easy solution, we take this quiet moment to ask Your blessing upon the Members of this people's House.

Give each Member peace and quiet discernment to work toward common solutions that might ease our divisions and open the way to new hope and confidence that we as a Nation will continue to shine as an example for all the world to emulate.

May all that is done this day be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Minnesota (Ms. McCOLLUM) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. McCOLLUM led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ADMINISTRATION'S SEQUESTER IMPLEMENTATION IS SHAMEFUL

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, on Sunday, the Federal Aviation Administration began furloughing air traffic controllers due to the President's sequestration. As a result, American families are set to experience longer security lines, flight delays, and more hardships while traveling.

Yesterday, the White House Press Secretary placed politics over leadership by blaming Congress. Last year, to address the issue, the House acted responsibly by passing two pieces of legislation to replace sequestration. Sadly, the Senate refused to consider our efforts, and the President vowed to veto them.

Once again, the President and his administration chose to act selfishly for political gain by cutting the resources for American passengers rather than reducing costs elsewhere and minimizing sequestration's impact. American families deserve real leadership. The President must start prioritizing the well-being of the American people over petty partisan politics.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

SEQUESTRATION

(Ms. McCOLLUM asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. McCOLLUM. Congress should have never passed sequestration.

These reckless cuts are affecting families and communities throughout our Nation and in Indian Country. When sequestration was passed, no one thought about how it would disproportionately impact tribal communities. Our Federal Government is failing in its obligation to tribal communities, and sequester has made the problem worse.

Right now, in Minnesota, Native American children are losing tutoring services and access to school counselors because of cuts to Impact Aid. Families that receive health care from the Indian Health Service are not protected from sequestration. The health and, in some cases, even the lives of tribal members are in danger.

This week, the Interior Appropriations Subcommittee will hear from tribal leaders. We will hear how Congress has an obligation and an opportunity to correct this wrong, and Congress must take action.

FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION DELAYS

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, the President's Federal Aviation Administration could use a little help. Faced with the task of trimming its budget only 5 percent—basically, just returning to 2010 spending levels—it has decided to

furlough employees and cause flight delays.

How can this be their only option when the FAA's budget has grown almost 110 percent over the past 15 years?

Rather than inflicting unnecessary pain on the American people, President Obama and his FAA should be cutting waste. Within the FAA's budget, there are \$2.7 billion in nonpersonnel costs that should be scrutinized before the President or his Transportation Secretary cry "doomsday" or "delay." Examples include 500 million taxpayer dollars spent by the FAA on consultants, \$143 million on operation costs for the FAA's 46 aircraft, and \$200 million on supplies and travel.

The President's FAA officials have the discretion to reduce such excess and apply savings to the essentials. They should stop punishing the American people with flight delays or threats of shuttered air traffic towers and compromised safety and use the power they have to cut taxpayer-funded waste first.

GOP MUST APPOINT BUDGET CONFEREES

(Mr. POCAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. POCAN. Congress is now more than 1 week past our legal deadline to produce a final budget for the American people, but this is not due to a lack of activity by either Chamber. In fact, the House has passed a budget, and the Senate has passed a budget; yet there is no movement toward creating a final national budget.

Why? Because Republicans in both the House and the Senate refuse to appoint budget conferees.

Mr. Speaker, the people of Wisconsin and the Nation deserve a Federal budget that reflects our values and that lays out our priorities just like we do in Wisconsin and other States. Without a budget, we cannot respond to emerging needs or cut wasteful programs, and we cannot replace the irresponsible sequester cuts that are hitting our families and communities.

This is unacceptable and it is unnecessary. I am a member of the Budget Committee, and I do not agree with most of what was included in the budget that our committee passed, but I do believe we need to sit down with the Senate and, in an open, transparent process, come to a budget solution.

There is no excuse for inaction. Republicans should immediately appoint budget conferees so we can produce a budget that promotes economic growth and supports our middle class families.

OBAMACARE'S BROKEN PROMISES

(Mr. MESSER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MESSER. Many of the promises that were made to justify ObamaCare have been broken.

Contrary to what was promised, not everyone will be able to keep their current health coverage; and contrary to what was promised, the average family premium has risen significantly, not dropped. The projected cost to taxpayers has skyrocketed despite assurances it wouldn't add a dime to our deficit. Worse yet, the really sick who can't find health care because of pre-existing conditions are being denied promised help.

Lost coverage, higher premiums, more taxes, and bigger government—that's the reality of ObamaCare. Now one of the Senate's creators of ObamaCare is warning of the impending train wreck coming with the implementation of the health care exchanges next year.

Mr. Speaker, this Congress needs to derail ObamaCare and start making promises we can keep.

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NATIONAL PARK WEEK

(Mr. COSTA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, during National Park Week, we celebrate, perhaps, America's best idea and remember that these parks belong to all the people of America.

Since they are part of our national heritage, it is every American's obligation to ensure that we preserve these national treasures for the next generation.

Yosemite is one of the crown jewels of our national park system, and it has a special place in the hearts of Californians, as well as this Californian.

Today, I'm introducing a bill with Senator DIANNE FEINSTEIN that would expand Yosemite National Park to include 1,600 acres that were originally intended to be part of the park. This would restore the park to its original vision and protect its most vulnerable western border.

Our bill has the broad bipartisan support of local government, State officials, and many other groups.

It has been said that there is nothing more American than our national park system.

With this bill, we are restoring this national treasure to its original boundary and showing that we remain dedicated to this truly American idea.

FIXING DEMOCRAT PROBLEMS III: FAA FLIGHT DELAYS

(Mr. MEADOWS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MEADOWS. Madam Speaker, this administration seems bound and determined to wield their sequester—

automatic, across-the-board cuts—like a club in order to drive their political agenda. Their latest move? These politically motivated flight delays being felt by travelers at airports all across America.

The Federal Aviation Administration apparently believes that the only way to implement these cuts is to furlough thousands of traffic controllers, tying up the skyways all across this country. It would appear that they've missed the \$2.7 billion in potential savings that they've chosen to ignore.

Did they really need to spend \$325 million in travel costs, especially when their operation budget has already grown by 109 percent since 1996? These unnecessary flight delays are just the latest proof that this administration is clearly more interested in making a political point than coming up with serious solutions to the problems that our Nation faces.

We need to cut wasteful spending for more efficient, effective government that would foster a healthier economy and create jobs now.

H.R. 1549: A WIN-WIN FOR CONSERVATIVES

(Mr. BURGESS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, tomorrow on the floor of this House, we will consider H.R. 1549, the Helping Sick Americans Now Act.

This bill is a win-win for our constituents. It's compassionate towards the most vulnerable.

Unlike other parts of the Affordable Care Act, which only expand broken government-run programs, this program will provide private health insurance to sick Americans.

The bill is fiscally responsible. It reduces the country's deficit while redirecting funds from a slush fund while the administration uses the Prevention and Public Health Fund money to prop up their train wreck of implementation for the Affordable Care Act. Conservatives actually want to use it to help sick Americans.

This bill helps those with preexisting conditions that have no other options and provides a fiscally conservative policy that reduces the deficit.

I urge Members of the House to support and pass H.R. 1549 when it's on the floor tomorrow.

KEYSTONE PIPELINE

(Mr. WEBER of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WEBER of Texas. It has been 1,677 days, Mr. Speaker, that have passed since we first started discussing the Keystone pipeline, a project that would create—depending on whose numbers you use—2,000 to 20,000 jobs; \$2.05 billion in worker salaries; and \$65 million in local tax revenue.

On Friday, I sent a letter to the State Department demanding action on the Keystone pipeline. The project is in the best interest of all Americans. Up to 83,000 barrels of oil per day could be delivered to gulf coast refineries, which is equal to roughly half of the amount of oil we import from the Middle East.

My question for the President and Secretary Kerry is this: What is the holdup? Seventy percent of Americans want this project because they understand that it is a step closer for this country to energy independence and security.

I hope the President and Secretary Kerry are listening because it is time to build this country.

I'm RANDY WEBER, and I love living in America.

TAX REFORM

(Mr. LANCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. LANCE. Mr. Speaker, as we continue to seek answers to the bombings in Boston and pray for the victims and their families, we are working on important issues here in Washington.

This past tax season, American taxpayers spent billions of hours and enormous amounts of money to complete their tax filings. Roughly nine out of 10 Americans relied on paid professionals or commercial software to prepare their tax returns, and small business owners found themselves spending more resources complying with the Tax Code rather than creating jobs. That's why I am committed to making our Tax Code simpler, fairer, and less expensive for America's working families and businesses.

Mr. Speaker, the time is now to act and to create a Tax Code that is easier to navigate and promotes growth to the benefit of individuals, small and large businesses alike, and the U.S. economy as a whole.

This is the year to reform our Tax Code to benefit all Americans in a bipartisan capacity.

MANUFACTURING

(Mr. LONG asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LONG. We're a Nation of builders.

We all agree we need to get the Nation's economy growing again in order to create jobs. The manufacturing sector will play an integral role in creating jobs for hardworking Americans.

As a member of the Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Commerce, Manufacturing, and Trade, I look forward to working with my colleagues as we continue our hearing series focused on our Nation's manufacturing sector.

I enjoy highlighting the strong manufacturing base in the Seventh District of Missouri and showcasing the amazing work of businesses in the district.